Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) A dispersible dry powder for pulmonary delivery ~~consisting essentially of~~ comprising a therapeutically effective amount of a therapeutic agent ~~dispersed throughout~~ in aerogel particles ~~which are soluble in human pulmonary surfactant~~ wherein said particles have a density and particle size to permit them to reach the alveoli of a human subject's lungs upon inhalation.

2-16. (canceled)

17. (new) The powder of claim 1 wherein said particles deliver said agent into the bloodstream of said subject.

18. (New) The powder of claim 1, wherein the aerogel particle is prepared from an aerogel prepared by supercritical drying at a temperature of less than 40°C.

19. (New) The powder of claim 1, wherein the aerogel particle contains pores of about 1 to 100 nm.

20. (New) The powder of claim 1, wherein the aerogel particle has a surface area of about 100 to 1,200 m^2/g.

21. (New) The powder of claim 1, wherein the aerogel particle has a density of about 0.1 to 0.001 g/cc.

22. (New) The powder of claim 1, wherein the aerogel particle has a particle size of about submicron up to about 3 microns.

23. (New) The powder of claim 1, wherein the aerogel particle is a carrier selected from the group consisting of sugars and carbohydrates.

24. (New) The powder of claim 1, prepared by co-gelling the therapeutic agent with a gel-forming material selected from the group consisting of sugars and carbohydrates.

25. (New) The powder of claim 1, prepared by the steps of (i) preparing porous gels of a carrier material which is soluble in pulmonary surfactant; (ii) soaking the porous gels in a solution of the therapeutic agent; (iii) removing the solvent and forming aerogels by supercritical drying; and (iv) converting the aerogels into powder.

26. (New) The powder of claim 1, wherein the therapeutic agent is insulin.

27. (New) The powder of claim 1, wherein the therapeutic agent is methadone.

28. (New) The powder of claim 1, wherein the therapeutic agent is naltrexone.

29. (New) A method of treating a disease state responsive to treatment by a therapeutic agent comprising pulmonarily administering to a subject in need thereof a dispersible dry powder according to claim 1.

30. (New) The method of claim 29, wherein the powder is prepared from an aerogel prepared by supercritical drying at a temperature of less than 40°C.

31. (New) The method of claim 30, wherein the powder is prepared from an aerogel prepared by co-gelling the therapeutic agent with a gel-forming material selected from the group consisting of sugars and carbohydrates.

32. (New) A method of preparing a dry powder according to claim 1, said method comprising converting an aerogel comprising said therapeutic agent into particles having a particle size permitting them to reach the alveoli of a subject's lungs upon inhalation.

33. (New) A composition comprising the powder of claim 1.

34. (New) The composition of claim 33 further comprising a dispersant.

35. (New) The composition of claim 34 wherein said dispersant is a chlorofluoro compound.

36. (New) A method of delivering a therapeutic agent to a subject, said method comprising administering to said subject a dispersible dry powder according to claim 1 as an inhalant.

37. (New) A method of delivering a therapeutic agent to the bloodstream of a subject, said method comprising administering to said subject a dispersible dry powder according to claim 1 as an inhalant.

38. (New) A method of delivering a therapeutic agent to a subject, said method comprising administering to said subject a composition according to claim 33 as an inhalant.

39. (New) The powder of claim 1 wherein said agent is adsorbed onto the structure of said particles.

40. (New) The powder of claim 1 wherein said particles are directly prepared from said therapeutic agent.

41. (New) The powder of claim 1 wherein the structure of said particles comprise said therapeutic agent.

42. (New) The powder of claim 1 wherein said powder is formulated for quick introduction into the bloodstream and controlled release thereafter.

43. (New) The powder of claim 1 wherein the powder is formulated for slow release.

44. (New) A dispersible dry powder for pulmonary delivery comprising a therapeutically effective amount of a therapeutic agent and aerogel particles

wherein said particles have a density and particle size to permit them to reach the alveoli of a human subject's lungs upon inhalation.